



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

WEST BANK/GAZA

FACT SHEET

HEALTH & HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

PROJECT PROFILE

"Quality Maternal and Neonatal Health Care for Palestinian Women and Infants" Holy Family Hospital (HFH)

JUNE 2010



A mother reads a healthy living brochure to her young daughter as she awaits services for her children.

CHALLENGES

- Underutilization of nurses and midwives as a critical part of the pediatric health delivery system.
- Lack of sufficient public infrastructure to support the increasing demands for neo-natal intensive care.
- Lack of sufficient community outreach programming and clinics for Palestinian women.
- Weak or nonexistent Well Woman programs in health care facilities throughout the West Bank.
- Reliance on donations (from Arab countries in particular) for long-term financial sustainability.

Project Overview

USAID's maternal and child health project is focused on the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem. The goal of the USAID project is to support the hospital as a center of excellence for quality maternal and baby care (especially for high risk pregnancies and newborns), to expand services in response to evolving community needs, and to promote sustainability of the facility's specialized care capacity. USAID achieves these goals by focusing on outreach to expectant mothers, improved training for medical professionals, and targeted activities to emphasize emergency support.

Goals

- Provide professional training for physicians, nurses, and midwives at the Holy Family Hospital.
- Improve the health care outreach for Palestinian women, specifically regarding Well Women Health Care Programs.
- Provide emergency budget relief and other financial support so that the Hospital weathers the global financial downturn.

Activities

USAID assistance to the Holy Family Hospital comprises an integrated package of support that includes the provision of medical supplies, renovations to the facility, continuing education programs for nurses, residency costs for staff doctors, and outreach programs for women.

As a result of increasing demands for services, USAID provides funds for improved physical facilities. This support includes upgrades to equipment and furnishings for the new neonatal intensive care unit; construction and furnishing of the expanded nursery and day care facility, the expanded labor and delivery ward, the maternal intensive care unit, and the emergency ward; procurement of medical and surgical equipment, instruments, and supplies; and updated computer equipment for improved clinical and administrative management.

The Holy Family Hospital also recognizes the need for an improved health care outreach program. USAID supports health care outreach programs, including the expansion of Well Women Clinic services, the operating costs for the mobile OB/GYN unit, and the implementation of a new family education program to promote better maternal and newborn health.



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Premature quadruplets receiving care at the Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit of the Holy Family Hospital

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USAID also supports advanced training for HFH health care professionals. By supporting residencies, fellowships, and visiting professor programs, the HFH has been able to provide advanced clinical training in obstetrics/gynecology, laparoscopy, midwifery, pediatrics, neonatology, and nursing.

Finally, as a result the global economic crisis, donations to HFH have slowed. USAID has provided emergency funding to cover the hospital's operating costs. This includes support for health staff salaries, utilities, and contracts for additional doctors/nurses to help meet growing caseloads.

Successes

- Completed \$1.4 million of construction and renovation activities at the Hospital including a delivery ward, intensive care unit, emergency room, well baby nursery, and a special sterilization unit.
- Provided \$1.3 million worth of medical equipment and furnishings, including post-natal beds and monitors and neonatal and obstetric, laboratory, x-ray and anesthesia equipment.
- Designed and implemented a Well Woman Health Care program through the hospital's outpatient clinics and the outreach clinics in remote villages. Also expanded the program with an additional gynecologist.
- Supported the residency costs of three staff doctors – one in obstetrics/gynecology, one in neonatology, and one in OB/GYN. Also supported the continuing education of 10 nurses.
- Developed and produced a Health Education Kit to be distributed to mothers who receive care at the HFH. Two booklets and one brochure were developed on newborn, antenatal & postnatal, and pre-mature baby care.
- Trained 279 health care professionals in advanced techniques.
- Improved the quality of care at HFH through long term, short term and visiting professors training programs.

Project Detail

Implementing Partner: Holy Family Hospital; Life of Project: 09/30/2005-09/29/2010; Total Estimated Cost: \$5,555,000.